



TFW 3745

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: SPRINGMANN, G. ET AL - 1 PCT Examiner:
Ser. No.: 10/552,791 GROUP: 3745
Filed: January 13, 2006 CONFIRMATION NO.:
TITLE: Device for Coupling a Coolant Supply to a Roller

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Enclosed please find a copy of the International Preliminary Report on Patentability.

Respectfully submitted,
SPRINGMANN, G. ET AL

By 
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encls.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP Amendment, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 2, 2006.


Kelly Espitia

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P200579	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See item 4 below
International application No. PCT/DE2004/000680	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 29 March 2004 (29.03.2004)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 10 April 2003 (10.04.2003)	
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237			
Applicant FA. GEORG SPRINGMANN INDUSTRIE- UND BERGBAUTECHNIK GMBH			

1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a).

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 7 sheets, including this cover sheet.

In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I | Basis of the report |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. II | Priority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI | Certain documents cited |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |

4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No. +41 22 740 14 35	Date of issuance of this report 02 March 2006 (02.03.2006)
	Authorized officer Agnes Wittmann-Regis Telephone No. +41 22 338 89 70

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

Translation

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

To:

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
P200579

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/DE2004/000680

International filing date (day/month/year)
29.03.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
10.04.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

Applicant

FA. GEORG SPRINGMANN INDUSTRIE- UND BERGBAUTECHNIK GMBH

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☒ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/EP

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/DE2004/000680

Box No. I

Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐

This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language

_____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)).

2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material

☐

a sequence listing

☐

table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

☐

in written format

☐

in computer readable form

c. time of filing/furnishing

☐

contained in the international application as filed.

☐

filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐

furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/DE2004/000680

Box No. II

Priority

1. ☒ The following document has not yet been furnished:

☒ copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43bis.1 and 66.7(a)).

☐ translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43bis.1 and 66.7(b)).

Consequently it has not been possible to consider the validity of the priority claim. This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date is the claimed priority date.

2. ☐ This opinion has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rules 43bis.1 and 64.1). Thus for the purposes of this opinion, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.

3. Additional observations, if necessary:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/DE2004/000680

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-13</u>	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>1-13</u>	YES
	Claims	_____	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-13</u>	YES
	Claims	_____	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

1.)

This opinion cites the following document:

D1: DE 42 07 042 C (MANNESMANN AG) 16 September 1993
(1993-09-16)

2.)

Document D1 can be regarded as closest prior art.

It discloses a device for coupling a coolant supply to a roller, whereby the roller is mounted in a bearing block by means of journals and roller bearings, and can be supplied with a coolant by means of at least one axial borehole guided through the journals with

- a sealing unit that can be fixed to the journal in a pressure-tight manner, in order carry out the coupling to the borehole

- and a bearing block cover that can be fixed to the bearing block for covering the borehole and provided with at least one coolant channel that can be connected to the coolant supply

from which the subject matter of the independent claim 1 differs in that:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/DE2004/000680

Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement

the bearing block cover (9) can be fitted with an insert (14) which supports the sealing unit (7; 8; 19; 20; 21) in fitted state, and whereby the insert (14), in order to carry out pressure-tight coupling of the coolant channel (11, 12) via the sealing unit (7; 8; 19; 20; 21) to the borehole (6), is provided with at least one coolant channel (17, 18) , which connects to the coolant channel (11, 12) in the bearing block cover (9) and the sealing unit (7; 8; 19; 20; 21) in fitted state.

The subject matter of claim 1 is thus novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

3.)

The **effect** of the features that comprise the difference to prior art is that when the insert is removed from the bearing block cover, external access, e.g. for the performance of maintenance work, is possible without removing the entire bearing block cover.

The solution for this problem disclosed in claim 1 of the present application thus represents an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)):

4.)

Claims 2-13 depend on claim 1 and thus also satisfy PCT requirements with respect to novelty and inventive step.

5.)

Industrial Applicability:

As the method and the device can be used for handling molten masses in foundries, the invention is industrially applicable.

6.) Objections:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/DE2004/000680

Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement

a.)

Claim 1 is unclear.

Pursuant to PCT Article 6, claims must be concise. The expression "preferably" (vorzugsweise) does not restrict the scope of protection of the claim, that is, the feature that follows this expression is to be regarded as being entirely facultative (Guidelines C-11, 4.6).

b.) Independent claim 1 is not formulated correctly in the two-part form in accordance with PCT Rule 6.3(b), which in the present case would be appropriate, with those features known in combination from the prior art (document D1) being placed in the preamble (PCT Rule 6.3 b) i)), and the remaining features being placed in the characterising part (PCT Rule 6.3 b) ii)).